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NOTES AND MEMORANDA.

THE most important publication of the quarter, at least for English readers, is the first volume of Professor Marshall's *Economics of Industry*, issued by Messrs. Macmillan. The same firm announces that the English edition of Professor Boehm-Bawerk's *Positive Theory of Capital* is nearly ready for publication.

Messrs. Williams & Northgate announce as nearly completed the second volume of Mr. Charles Booth's survey of industrial London. It will be more general in scope than the first volume, and will be illustrated by a poverty map of all London.

THE mode in which the silver act of July last will work must depend in part on the action of the banks, through whose hands the new currency passes in finding its way into circulation. The silver certificates of the older issue, when received by the banks of New York and other large Eastern cities, were either returned by them at once in general circulation or, failing that, were paid into the Treasury in discharge of public dues. In regard to the new notes, the usage, so far as yet established, seems to be to treat them, with more favor, as "current funds"; and this usage will probably be maintained so long as the Treasury redeems them in gold. We may therefore expect them to constitute a larger item in the bank holdings than the silver certificates, and to play a larger part in payments between banks. Nevertheless, the situation will probably present no essentially new features. No considerable amounts are likely to be held or used by banks; and the actual circulation of the new notes, like that of the silver certificates, will be limited to the small denominations. The first of them printed, as it happened, were in denominations of a thousand dollars and upwards, and found their way back into the Treasury as promptly as did the large silver certificates when these were first issued.

WE reproduce from *La Réforme Sociale* of May 16 certain figures on the movement of population in Aucomville, a commune of Southern France, in the department of Tarn-et-Garonne, along the fertile banks of the Garonne. The figures, which were gathered from the registers of the parish by its curé, the Abbé Galabert, reflect in a striking manner the salient events in the economic and political history of France for the last three centuries. The boundaries of the commune have been changed only once, and then very slightly; it has been purely agricultural throughout, and has been little affected by emigration and immigration; it presents, therefore, a remarkably favorable field for continuous observation.

M. Galabert presents his results in three tables, for the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, the figures in each century being given for periods of ten years.

I. SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Natural Growth of Population.	Remarks.
1597-1608 (1599 missing.)	} 393	54	297	96 increase.	Marriages not given for 1607 and 1608; more than 15 persons devoured by wolves.
1609-19 1620-33 (1622-25 missing.)	405 } 352	73	360 579	45 " 227 decrease.	Epidemics in 1620, 1629, 1630, 1631.
1634-43	474				Marriages and deaths not given.
1644-53	399				
1654-63	411				
1664-74 (1668 missing.)	} 583	52	386	197 increase.	
1675-84	541	87	459	82 "	
1685-96 (1689 and 1694 missing.)	} 457	77	406	51 "	
1697-1708 (1698 and 1699 missing.)	} 509	83	367	142 "	

The most striking feature in this period is the extraordinary mortality of the third decade, due to the pest, which again

was mainly caused by the misery brought on by the religious wars. In 1629 alone there were 130 deaths; in 1630, again, 96. With the consolidation of the royal power and the end of the civil wars, prosperity begins, and the births increase, the maximum being reached in 1664-74, in the time of Colbert. Thereafter, the births decline, the deaths tend to increase; but, on the whole, the second half of the century shows a steady natural increase.

II. EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Natural Growth of Population.	Remarks.
1709-18	429	80	527	98 decrease.	Marriages and deaths not given for 1757.
1719	48	12	49	1 "	
1720-29	418	82	302	116 increase.	
1730-39	418	44	356	62 "	
1740-49	410	77	331	79 "	
1750-59	372	65	421	49 decrease.	January of 1772 missing.
1760-69	384	74	313	71 increase.	
1770-79	373	86	390	17 decrease.	
1780-89	405	96	379	26 increase.	
1790 and 1792 (1791 missing.)	} 60	15	121	61 decrease.	

The figures for the first years of the eighteenth century confirm the statements common among the writers of the time as to the wretched state to which France was then reduced by the disastrous war of the Spanish succession. The death-rate is at its maximum, and the deaths greatly exceed the births. With the end of the war there is a prompt recovery: in 1720-29, the births exceed the deaths. Thereafter, the population seems to have remained almost stationary, sometimes gaining by natural increase, sometimes losing. For the whole eighty-three years, the births were 3,317, the deaths 3,189,—a net gain of 128. The years immediately preceding the Revolution were sad: M. Galabert notes extraordinary mortality in 1778, 1780, 1782, 1783, 1789. The figures for 1790 and 1792 speak for themselves.

For the troubled years at the close of the century, figures

were not attainable ; and the next table begins with the year 1804, and is complete only from 1821.

III. NINETEENTH CENTURY.

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Natural Growth of Population.	Remarks.
1804-20 } (17 years.) }	479	132			Deaths not given. Births average 28+ per year.
1821-30	296	90	174	122 increase.	
1831-40	287	119	261	26 "	
1841-50	287	94	275	12 "	
1851-60	259	104	219	40 "	
1861-70	254	102	227	27 "	
1871-80	228	85	248	20 decrease.	Small-pox epidemic in 1871.
1881-88 } (8 years.) }	131	54	168	37 "	
1881-90 ?	165	67	210	45 "	Figures for 1881-90 calculated on the basis of those for 1881-88.

The generation after the Napoleonic wars shows the marked increase of population which then took place throughout France. Thereafter, the general slackening makes itself felt. For the last two decades, the figures reflect strikingly the tendency towards an absolute fall in the population of agricultural France.

Looking over the three tables, we find a marked decline both in births and deaths in the nineteenth century, compared with the eighteenth and seventeenth. The total population is not stated, but has probably been at least as large in this century as in the two preceding; so much, indeed, might be inferred from the fact that marriages have been more numerous. We have, therefore, less births and deaths, more marriages, or, at least, no less,—a striking illustration, not less so because on a small scale, of the working of the preventive check in France.

ANOTHER step in the series of measures by which the German Empire seeks to deal with social questions has been taken by the act of July 29 of this year, for the establishment of courts of arbitration and conciliation. The communes are

empowered to establish courts for these purposes, which are to consist of a chairman (who may be neither employer nor workman) and associates elected in equal numbers by employers and workmen. If the communes do not act, and if either employers or workmen request it, the central authorities may establish courts of the same sort; and for mining industries they may do so without request from any one. The courts in all cases are to be permanent, the members holding office for at least a year. Their jurisdiction for arbitration extends to all disputes arising in connection with the contract of service. As to such, they are courts of law, and their decisions have binding force.

More interesting to the student of economics are the provisions by which these bodies are to act as courts of conciliation. The disputes arising between employers and workmen "in regard to the conditions under which work is to be continued or resumed"—that is, in strikes and lock-outs—they may endeavor to conciliate, if called on by both parties. When so called on, they are to endeavor to bring about an agreement. If unsuccessful in this, they are nevertheless to reach a decision, with the proviso, however, that, if the representatives of the workmen are all of one mind and those of the employers all of another, the chairman may withhold his vote, and so prevent any conclusion. The decision, if reached, is merely in the nature of a recommendation, to be communicated to the parties, and published at large.

With such limitations in the powers it gives, this latest of the German "social" measures is not likely to have any wide effects. The new courts, in their capacity as arbitrators, will hardly do more than to bring about a more speedy settlement of petty disputes. As boards of conciliation, the proviso by which they can step in only at the request of both parties seems to stand in the way of their accomplishing much that would not be done without them.